



SAFETY ALERT

Subject: Guardian Fall Protection Retracting Lifelines

Number: SA 01/14

DIO ODC Sponsor: RA Cawthorne

Date of issue:
17 February 2014

Contact if different from above Sponsor: Tim Lord

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Who Should Read this:

Who Should Read this: CEStOs, Top Level Budget Holders, Project Sponsors, MOD Project Managers and others within the IPT (for both Prime, PFI/PPP and traditionally procured contracts), Defence Infrastructure Organisation Advisors and Infrastructure Managers with responsibility for MOD projects and Property Management Works Services (including the legacy work of EWCs/WSMs) Coordinating Authorising Engineers, Authorising Engineers (WaH), Authorised Persons (WaH), purchasers and installers of climbing equipment.

When it takes effect: Immediately

When it is due to expire: No Expiry
except on update.

1. Document Aim:

To alert all personnel working on the MoD estate of a Product Recall Notice issued by Guardian Fall Protection for some of their Self Retracting Lifelines.

2. Introduction

- a. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONTENTS OF THIS ALERT WILL ENABLE COMPLIANCE WITH THE HEALTH & SAFETY AT WORK ETC ACT 1974 AND ITS SUBORDINATE REGULATIONS.

- b. The appropriate MOD officer shall arrange for the Regional Prime Contractor (RPC) and Maintenance Management Organisation (MMO) to carry out all actions in accordance with this Safety Alert.
- c. Any work required as a result of this Safety Alert must be carried out in accordance with JSP 375 Volume 3 – MOD’s Safety Rules & Procedures.
- d. On MOD Establishments occupied by United States Visiting Forces (USVF) responsibility is jointly held by USVF and DIO (USF). At base level, this jointly managed organisation is to take appropriate action to implement the contents of this Safety Alert. Where this Alert contains procedures which differ significantly from USVF practice, DIO (USF) code of practice will be issued.

3. Requirement

- a. **URGENT:** All establishments, RPCs, MMOs, all Climbing Organisations and all other organisations involved in Working at Height on the MoD estate are to carry out the following actions:
 - (1) Refer to the Product Recall Notice issued by Guardian Fall Protection as given in Section 4.b below, and note details of the products that need to be recalled.
 - (2) Using the advice given in the Notice, carry out an inspection of all safety equipment to determine if the particular retractable lifelines are in their inventory.
 - (3) Where any retractable lifeline is identified as being from within the specified batch range, it is to be immediately removed from service and returned to Guardian in accordance with the instructions given in their Notice, noting a Guardian “REC” number must be obtained from them first.
- b. All AE (WaH)s and AP (WaH)s are to conduct equipment checks on any Climbing Organisation applying for a Permit to Climb to ensure that the affected products are not being used. No Permit to Climb shall be issued where it is proposed to use Guardian Retractable Lifelines from the batch range that need to be recalled.
- c. Where any doubt exists, whether regarding the correct identification of a Retractable Lifeline or its condition, then it is to be removed from service and the advice of Guardian Fall Protection is to be sought.
- d. No equipment is to be put back into service without the written approval of Guardian Fall Protection.

4. Background

- a. It has come to DIO’s attention that Guardian Fall Protection have issued a Product Recall Notice for some of their Self Retracting Lifelines.
- b. Full details can be found by accessing the hyperlinks as below:

Guardian website: <http://www.guardianfall.com/notices>

Product Recall Notice:

http://www.guardianfall.com/Emails/2014/Q1/notice/recall_notice_-_Select_10910_10915_SRLs.pdf

- c. Although Guardian advise that there have been no reported injuries arising from this issue, they are aware of some non-conformances of products from a specific production batch which is the focus of their product recall.
- d. Guardian also advise that "*failure to return the specified units may result in serious injury or death*".